

NEWS ADVISORY
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Department of Criminal Justice Training Will Stage Vehicle Collision As Part of Training Exercise

RICHMOND – A driver changing a flat tire will be plowed down on Friday, June 10, when another vehicle smashes into his broken down car, and more than a dozen law enforcement officers will stand by and watch it happen.

The staged collision between the two vehicles will be held at 9 a.m. at the driving track at the McKinney Skills Complex in Richmond. It is part of the Department of Criminal Justice Training's Vehicle Collision Investigation Course, Level III, and is a practical exercise for the officers attending the vehicle collision training.

"Experience is a portion of the vehicle collision courses that cannot be taught. This has to be earned by the student through application of knowledge and imagination," course instructor Richard Parkos said. "Providing a staged collision, although controlled somewhat, provides the student the atmosphere to gain this experience. To use their newfound knowledge and focused imagination to explain in detail what takes place in 1/10th of a second during a collision. The best vehicle constructionist understands how to use both, knowledge and imagination."

The focus of Friday's crash will be occupant kinematics and rollover. Kinematics is the movement study of an object that is placed in motion by the change in its motion.

In the collision scenario, one vehicle will be stopped while the driver changes a tire. Another vehicle will run a stop sign and strike the disabled vehicle, forcing both vehicles over an embankment.

Mannequins will be used as drivers and occupants in the scenario.

After the crash, the students will complete measurements of the area, friction testing of the roadway, examination of the crashed vehicles and analysis of the collision. The students will work in groups as an investigation unit. They will have a week to complete the investigation and will then present their findings to a panel of collision experts in a courtroom setting.

Following the collision, there will be a short time given to view the damaged vehicles. The collision scene will then be secured and turned over to the students for completion of the exercise.

Representatives of the media are invited to attend the crash. Those wishing to witness the collision should be at the crash site no later than 8:45 a.m. The gates to the driving track will be secured at 8:55 a.m. The McKinney Skills Complex is located on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University.

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